

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 AGRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
PM-04 DODE-00 /093 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3790

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 0316

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JM, UR

SUBJECT: JAMAICAN-SOVIET LINKS TO GROW

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 000117 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE COURSE OF HIS THREE-HOUR ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT REGARDING JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC CRISIS ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 19 (SEE SEPTTEL), PRIME MINISTER MICHAEL MANLEY TOUCHED ON JAMAICA'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND COMECON. HE SAID THAT DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO CUBA OF FOREIGN MINISTER P.J. PATTERSON AND NATIONAL MOBILIZATION MINISTER D.K. DUNCAN, (REFTEL), THE CUBANS HAD TOLD THEIR JAMAICAN VISITORS THAT THERE IS A POTENTIAL MARKET IN THE COMECON COUNTRIES FOR BAUXITE, BANANAS, CITRUS, COFFEE AND "A RANGE OF JAMAICAN SPECIALS LIKE TIA MARIA AND PICKAPEPPA SAUCE". THE COMECON COUNTRIES CAN SUPPLY "BASIC FOODSTUFFS, RAW MATERIALS AND
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CAPITAL GOODS ... IN EXCHANGE". MANLEY ADDED THAT JAMAICA HAS INVITED "TWO COMECON VICE PRIME MINISTERS" NOW VISITING CUBA FOR A COMECON MEETING TO VISIT JAMAICA; AT THE SAME TIME, JAMAICA IS ORGANIZING A MISSION TO VISIT MOSCOW TO EXPLORE TRADE POSSIBILITIES.

2. HAVING OFFERED THE HOPE THAT COMECON COULD HELP JAMAICA

TO CURE ITS ECONOMIC ILLS, THE PRIME MINISTER THEN MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH EVERYONE HAS BEEN AWAITING EVER SINCE THE DECEMBER 15 ELECTIONS WERE COMPLETED. IN A BRIEF STATEMENT MANLEY SAID THAT HE WISHED "TO ANNOUNCE THE PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE SOVIET UNION. THIS, HE SAID, WILL "COMPLETE OUR POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND SEARCH FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL THE MAJOR POWERS AND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD."

3. COMMENT: THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE ABOUT TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH THE SOVIET UNION CAME AS NO SURPRISE BUT CLEARLY GAINED IN APPARENT IMPORT BY ITS INCLUSION IN WHAT WILL BE ONE OF MANLEY'S KEY ADDRESSES. THE REFERENCES TO COMECON WOULD HAVE ATTRACTED LESS ATTENTION THAN THEY HAVE EXCEPT FOR THREE FACTORS: (1) THE ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS, (2) THE IMMEDIACY ADDED BY THE UPCOMING VISIT OF THE TWO COMECON COUNTRY FIGURES AND (3) A REPORT WHICH APPEARED IN THE JANUARY 20 GLEANER UNDER THE CAPTION "JAMAICA MAY JOIN COMECON". THE GLEANER SAID THAT JAMAICA IS NOW STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH COMECON AND ADDED THAT THEIR STORY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY.
GERARD

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